



OCTOBER IS RESIDENTS RIGHTS MONTH

October is National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month, a time to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices many long-term care (LTC) residents have made to better our community and to call attention to the rights of residents in long-term care facilities. This year's theme – *CARE Matters*, was selected to call attention to the fact that residents of LTC facilities deserve quality care. Residents of LTC facilities have experienced many important historical, political events. It is important that they are given the opportunity to continue to participate in the political process and that voting is made accessible to them.

By listening to residents' voices, we honor their lives and experiences as well as treat them with dignity and respect; staff and residents can enjoy relationships that enhance their day-to-day lives; and the long-term care facility can operate more effectively in its daily activities when based on and developed with consumer involvement. Many people care about residents - family members, citizen advocates, long-term care ombudsmen, facility staff and others. This care can be truly individualized and focused on each person's needs and preferences.

During Residents' Rights Month, we recognize Louisiana's long-term care ombudsman program staff and volunteers, who work daily to promote residents' rights, assist residents with complaints and provide information to those who need to find a long-term care facility.

As we celebrate Residents' Rights, we encourage community members to visit residents they know in a long-term care facility, volunteer in a facility, or inquire about becoming a volunteer long-term care ombudsman. Your assistance and attention helps to ensure that the voices of long-term care residents do not go unheard and demonstrates to residents that they have not been forgotten.

For more information you may contact Karen Price, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, 866-632-0922 or by email at kfprice@goea.la.gov

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